

FACT SHEET

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations.

Distinguished Service Decorations are awarded by the Governor General on the recommendation from the Minister for Defence. Awards are announced on Australia Day (26 January) and His Majesty The King's Birthday (June) each year

Medal Design: The Distinguished Service Cross is a modified Maltese Cross of nickel-silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse bears a Federation Star surmounted on a disc of flame.

Insignia ribbon: The medal ribbon has a central ochre-red stripe flanked by narrower silver-blue stripes.

Post nominal: Recipients have the post-nominals of DSC. Those awarded a bar or bars may also use 'and Bar' or 'and Bars' after their name.

History: The Distinguished Service Decorations were introduced in 1991 and originally recognised command and leadership in action. The 'in action' was removed in 2011 and replaced with 'in warlike operations'.

There are three levels of decoration:

- Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)
- Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)
- Commendation for Distinguished Service (CDS)

The DSC is the highest level of the Distinguished Service Decorations.

- Next highest level of award: N/A
- Next lower level of award: Distinguished Service Medal



Ribbon - DSC with Bar

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS/INFORMATION

Definition of Warlike: Defence Honours and Awards Manual defined Warlike as operations declared by the Governor-General to be warlike.

Eligibility: Persons eligible to be awarded Distinguished Service Decorations are:

- members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).
- other persons determined by the Minister.
- Foreign defence force members serving on exchange or posting with the ADF may receive Distinguished Service Decorations. However, no award may be made to a foreign defence force member without prior concurrence from the member's government.

Subsequent awards: Second and subsequent awards of the Distinguished Service Cross are recognised by the presentation of a nickel-silver bar. The bar has a central replica of the Federation Star superimposed on a horizontal row of flames. The bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the original Cross. A ribbon bar emblem in the form of a Federation Star of nickel-silver diameter is worn on the ribbon bar.

Quotas: Quotas do not apply to Distinguished Service Decorations.